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NOTEWORTHY RECORDS OF MAMMALS FROM ERATH COUNTY, TEXAS

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Examination of specimens in the mammal collection of Tarleton State University (TSU) revealed noteworthy distributional records for 16 genera and 18 species of mammals from Erath County, Texas that were not previously reported in Davis and Schmidly (1994). Aside from the monograph of Dalquest and Horner (1984), which included a portion of the northwestern Cross-Timbers region, the work of Riddle et al. (1999) in Palo Pinto County, and the work of Goetze and Nelson (1998; 2000) in the southwestern Cross Timbers region, little research concerning mammalian distributions and biogeography has been reported from this region of Texas. Documentation of the occurrence of these species will aid researchers in biogeographical studies of the mammals of Texas, help define mammalian distributions, and aid in GAP analysis studies.

Species accounts are arranged according to Davis and Schmidly (1994). Specimens examined sections of each account include collection localities geographically arranged from farthest north to south, and east to west within Erath County. TSU dates of collection, collection numbers, and sex are reported whenever possible. Some specimen tags lack collection dates and/or sex, and this is indicated within the specimens examined section of each account.

Didelphis virginiana.—The Virginia opossum is relatively common throughout Texas (Davis and Schmidly 1994; Manning and Jones 1998). Specimens have been reported from Comanche and Mills counties (Goetze and Nelson 2000), but are absent for most of the Cross-Timbers region. Three specimens of this marsupial are reported.

Specimens examined (3).—Stephenville city limits, 7 April 1968 (TSU 441, female); 21 March 1969 (TSU 436, male); 27 October 1973 (TSU 413, female).

Cryptotis parva.—The least shrew has been reported from the Cross-Timbers region from Palo Pinto County (Riddle et al. 1999) immediately north of Erath and Mills counties (Goetze and Nelson 2000). Six specimens of *C. parva* are reported.

Specimens examined (6).—6 mi. N Stephenville, 4 November 1976 (TSU 513, male); 5 mi. N, 1 mi. E Stephenville, 5 December 1970 (TSU 104, male); 4.9 mi. W Stephenville, 17 November 1975 (TSU 510, unknown sex; TSU 512, male), 18 November 1975 (TSU 511, male); 7.1 mi. S Stephenville, 17 November 1976 (TSU 514, female).

Sylvilagus floridanus.—The eastern cottontail is widely distributed in Texas, but records are scarce for the Cross-Timbers region. *S. floridanus* previously has been reported from Palo Pinto and Mills counties (Davis and Schmidly 1994; Riddle et al. 1999). Eight specimens from the TSU collection are reported.

Specimens examined (8).—20 mi. E Stephenville, 19 July 1968 (TSU 427, male); 5 mi. E Stephenville, 3 December 1973 (TSU 407, male); 0.3 mi. S Stephenville,

Hwy 108, Bosque River, 13 June 1998 (TSU 1191, female; TSU 1192, female); 1 mi. S Stephenville, 6 February 1968 (TSU 440, female); 7 mi. S Stephenville, 12 April 1980 (TSU 1223, female); 10 mi. S Stephenville, 23 February 1967 (TSU 428, male); 4 mi. SW Dublin, Hwy 219, BYJ Cattle Co., 27 June 1997 (TSU 1150, female).

Lepus californicus.—Records of the black-tailed jackrabbit are lacking for the southwestern Cross-Timbers region of Texas. Three specimens from Erath County document the species' range within this area.

Specimens examined (3).—7.5 mi. W Stephenville, unknown date (TSU 426, male); 5 mi. SW Lingleville, 12 August 1968 (TSU 434, unknown sex); 5 mi. NW Dublin, 9 October 1972 (TSU 248, male).

Perognathus merriami.—Merriam's pocket mouse has been reported from Eastland and Palo Pinto counties adjacent to Erath County (Davis and Schmidly 1994). Three specimens are reported.

Specimens examined (3).—2 mi. NE Stephenville, 18 September 1975 (TSU 676, female); 7 mi. SE Dublin, 2 September 1975 (TSU 572, male), 9 January 1976 (TSU 573, male).

Chaetodipus hispidus.—The hispid pocket mouse has been reported from Eastland and Palo Pinto counties of the southwestern Cross-Timbers (Davis and Schmidly 1994). Three specimens are reported.

Specimens examined (3).—1 mi. W, 1 mi. N Stephenville, 31 October 1970 (TSU 110, male); 4.9 mi. W Stephenville, 23 November 1975 (TSU 519, male); 7 mi. SE Stephenville, 8 January 1976 (TSU 583, male).

Reithrodontomys fulvescens.—The fulvous harvest mouse has been reported from Brown, Comanche, Eastland, and Mills counties on the southwestern Cross-Timbers (Goetze and Nelson 2000). Nineteen specimens are reported.

Specimens examined (19).—12 mi. WNW Stephenville, 18 November 1970 (TSU 160, female); 9 mi. NE Stephenville, specific date unknown (January 1975) (TSU 584, male); 6 mi. NE Stephenville, 14 March 1978 (TSU 1043, female; TSU 1044, male; TSU 1045, female); 6 mi. NW Stephenville, 25 November 1973 (TSU 376, male; TSU 377, female); 5 mi. NE Stephenville, 4 February 1971 (TSU 123, female; TSU 162, female); 5 mi. NE Stephenville, 16 February 1971 (TSU 161, male); 1 mi. S Stephenville, 2 April 1971 (TSU 164, female); 4 mi. W Stephenville, 23 March 1971 (TSU 163, male); 4 mi. S Stephenville, 28 September 1976 (TSU 543, male); 5 mi. S Stephenville, 8 October 1976 (TSU 544, male); 7 mi. S Stephenville, 28 October 1975 (TSU 1028, female), 12 April 1980 (TSU 997, female), 27 April 1980 (TSU 999, male); 8 mi. S Stephenville, 17 April 1980 (TSU 998, female); 8.5 mi. S Stephenville, 2 November 1976 (TSU 542, female).

Reithrodontomys montanus.—The plains harvest mouse has been reported from Callahan and Eastland counties of the southwestern Cross-Timbers (Davis and Schmidly 1994). Specimens from Erath County extend the range of this species eastward within the region.

Specimens examined (21).—8 mi. E Stephenville, 1 December 1970 (TSU 120, female); 2 mi. W Stephenville, 26 November 1975 (TSU 540, male); 4.9 mi. W Stephenville, 16 November 1975 (TSU 539, male), 24 November 1975 (TSU 538, female); 7 mi. S Stephenville, 9 February 1975 (TSU 556, female); 7 mi. SE Stephenville, 22 February 1975 (TSU 557, male), 4 March 1975 (TSU 553, male), 8 March 1975 (TSU 554, male), 13 March 1975 (TSU 555, male), 2 April 1975 (TSU 752, female), 26 April 1975 (TSU 751, female), 23 May 1975 (TSU 750, female), 27 May 1975 (TSU 749, female), 9 January 1976 (TSU 558, male), 11 January 1976 (TSU 755, male; TSU 756, male), 7.1 mi. S Stephenville, 13 October 1976 (TSU 535, male), 17 November 1976 (TSU 536); 7.1 mi. S Stephenville, Hwy 914, 13 October 1976 (TSU 754, male); 8 mi. S Stephenville, 6 December 1976 (TSU 537, female); Dublin Airport, 23 February 1976 (TSU 924, male).

Peromyscus attwateri.—The Texas mouse has been reported from Brown, Bosque, Comanche, Eastland, Mills, and Palo Pinto counties of the southwestern Cross-Timbers region (Davis and Schmidly 1994; Goetze and Nelson 2000). The TSU mammal collection contained 34 specimens from Erath County.

Specimens examined (34).—4 mi. NE Stephenville, 11 January 1976 (TSU 639, male), 12 January 1976 (TSU 921, male); 3.9 mi. NE Stephenville, 12 January 1976 (TSU 730, female); 15 mi. E Stephenville, 24 February 1975 (TSU 739, female); 7 mi. E Stephenville, 3 April 1975 (TSU 546, female), 5 April 1975 (TSU 547, female; TSU 548, female; TSU 549, male; TSU 550, female; TSU 551, male; TSU 552, female); 4.1 mi. S Stephenville (FM 914), 10 October 1976 (TSU 488, female); 5 mi. SW Stephenville, 1 December 1976 (TSU 489, male); 6 mi. SE Stephenville, Honewell [Hunewell] Ranch, 1 June 1997 (TSU 1120, male; TSU 1121, female; TSU 1122, male; TSU 1126, female; TSU 1205, female), 2 June 1997 (TSU 1119, female; TSU 1123, male; TSU 1124, female), 5 June 1997 (TSU 1125, female); 6.1 mi. ESE Stephenville, Honewell [Hunewell] Ranch, 3 June 1998 (TSU 1164, male; TSU 1165, male; TSU 1166, male; TSU 1167, male; TSU 1168, female; TSU 1169, female; TSU 1170, male; TSU 1171, male; TSU 1172, male); 7 mi. SE Stephenville, Honewell [Hunewell] Ranch, 30 March 1974 (TSU 304, female), 31 March 1974 (TSU 305, female); 7 mi. SE Stephenville, 31 March 1974 (TSU 303, female).

Peromyscus leucopus.—The white-footed mouse has been recorded from Comanche, Eastland, and Palo Pinto counties, all of which are immediately adjacent to Erath County (Davis and Schmidly 1994; Riddle et al. 1999; Goetze and Nelson 2000). Thirty-two specimens are reported.

Specimens examined (32).—11.2 mi. NE Stephenville, 11 December 1970 (TSU 169, female); 7 mi. N Stephenville, 11 December 1973 (TSU 312, male); 7 mi. N, 2 mi. W Stephenville, 23 November 1970 (TSU 167, female); 6 mi. NW Stephenville, 25 November 1973 (TSU 313, male); 5 mi. NE Stephenville, 2 December 1976 (TSU 499, female); 4.2 mi. NW Stephenville, CR 389, Corinth Cemetery, 5 June 1997 (TSU 1127, female; TSU 1128, male; TSU 1129, female; TSU 1132, male; TSU 1133, female); 4 mi. NW Stephenville, 1 October 1973 (TSU 316, male); 4 mi. WNW Stephenville, 24 March 1971 (TSU 165, male); 3 mi. NE Stephenville, 10 June 1975 (TSU 500, female); 2.6 mi. NW Lingleville, Konvicka Ranch, 11 June 1997 (TSU 1206, female); 2 mi. NW Stephenville, 10 June 1975 (TSU 682, female); 1 mi. N Stephenville, 22 October 1975 (TSU 498, male); 2 mi. E Stephenville, 3 February 1968 (TSU 100, male); 3 mi. W Stephenville, 1 December 1970 (TSU 130, female); City Limits Stephenville, unknown date (TSU 171, male); 16 November 1970 (TSU 172, male), 23 November (TSU 173, female), 12 September 1975 (TSU 501, female); 1 mi. S Stephenville, 15 October 1973 (TSU 314, male; TSU 315, female); 5 mi. S Stephenville, 23 November 1975 (TSU 497, female); 6 mi. SE Stephenville, 1 June 1997 (TSU 1131, male), 5 June 1997 (TSU 1130, female); 6 mi. SE Stephenville, Honewell [Hunewell] Ranch, 14 June 1997 (TSU 1135, male); 7 mi. SE Stephenville, Honewell [Hunewell] Ranch, 10 December 1970 (TSU 168, male); 7.1 mi. S Stephenville, 13 October 1976 (TSU 494, male); 7.9 mi. S Alexander, 29 September 1975 (TSU 496, male); 8 mi. S Alexander, 6 October 1975 (TSU 495, male).

Sigmodon hispidus.—The hispid cotton rat ranges throughout Texas. Specimens have been reported from Bosque, Comanche, Eastland, Mills, and Palo Pinto counties (Davis and Schmidly 1994; Riddle et al. 1999; Goetze and Nelson 2000). Eleven specimens were found in the TSU collection.

Specimens examined (11).—4 mi. NW Stephenville, 5 October 1973 (TSU 399, female); 2 mi. N, 1 mi. E Stephenville, 27 September 1997 (TSU 1178, male; TSU 1179, male); 1 mi. W, 1 mi. N Stephenville, 1 November 1970 (TSU 175, male); 1 mi. NW Stephenville, 20 October 1973 (TSU 396, male); 1 mi. W Stephenville, 21 August 1973 (TSU 398, male); 0.25 mi. West End of Harbin Street, Stephenville, 21 November 1970 (TSU 180, male); Stephenville, 3 July 1975 (TSU 607, female); Stephenville City Limits, 25 September 1973 (TSU 400, male), 18 June 1998 (TSU 1177, male); 7 mi. SE Dublin, 28 July 1968 (TSU 416, female).

Microtus pinetorum.—The woodland vole's distribution within Texas has been reported as extending throughout northeastern Texas and onto the eastern edge of the Edwards Plateau (Davis and Schmidly 1994). However, only a few, scattered specimens support this extensive range. Habitats in Kerr and Gillespie counties on the Edwards Plateau, where the woodland vole was once collected, have been drastically altered by human activities (Goetze 1998). A single specimen represents an important record for *M. pinetorum* within the southwestern Cross-Timbers region.

Specimens examined (1).—5 mi. N Stephenville, CR 456, 5 June 1998 (TSU 1203, female).

Myocastor coypus.—This introduced species is extending its range through many of the river systems of Texas (Davis and Schmidly 1994). The nutria has been reported from Bosque, Brown, and Palo Pinto counties of the southwestern Cross-Timbers (Davis and Schmidly 1994). A recently obtained specimen verifies the presence of this species within this portion of its reported range.

Specimens examined (1).—2.5 mi. W Stephenville Post Office, Walmart Parking Lot, 4 February 2002 (TSU 1260, female).

Urocyon cinereoargenteus.—The gray fox ranges throughout Texas, but records are more common in the eastern portion of the state. Within the southwestern Cross-Timbers region, *U. cinereoargenteus* has been reported from Bosque, Brown, Eastland, Mills, and Palo Pinto counties (Davis and Schmidly 1994; Goetze and Nelson 2000). Two specimens are reported.

Specimens examined (2).—3 mi. W Stephenville, 21 June 1991 (TSU 1261, male); 3 mi. S Stephenville, 16 March 1969 (TSU 1262, female).

Bassariscus astutus.—Ringtails have been recorded from Bosque, Brown, Callahan, Eastland, and Hamilton counties on the southwestern Cross-Timbers (Davis and Schmidly 1994). One specimen is reported.

Specimens examined (1).—3 mi. S Gordon, no specific date (April 1973) (TSU 424, male).

Procyon lotor.—Although the range of *P. lotor* extends throughout Texas, specimens are lacking from the southwestern Cross-Timbers region. The raccoon has been recorded from Comanche, Eastland, and Mills counties (Goetze and Nelson 1998; Goetze and Nelson 2000). Five specimens are reported.

Specimens examined (5).—10 mi. N Stephenville, 19 September 1973 (TSU 411, male); 7 mi. S Stephenville, Alexander Hwy, Ed Horton Ranch, 10 November 1996 (TSU 1151, female; TSU 1152, female; TSU 1210, female); 10 mi. SE Stephenville, 1 February 1968 (TSU 435, male).

Spilogale putorius.—The range of the eastern spotted skunk reaches the central edge of the southwestern Cross-Timbers of Texas (Davis and Schmidly 1994). Records exist only from Bosque and Palo Pinto counties within the region (Davis and Schmidly 1994). Two specimens help define margins of the species' range.

Specimens examined (2).—Wooded brushy area [unspecified locality], specific date unknown (March 1968) (TSU 1263, male); 6 mi. WNW Stephenville, 10 November 1971 (TSU 1264, unknown sex).

Mephitis mephitis.—The striped skunk is widespread within Texas. Records may be found from Eastland, Mills, and Palo Pinto counties within the southwestern Cross-Timbers (Davis and Schmidly 1994; Goetze and Nelson 2000). A single specimen is reported.

Specimens examined (1).—1 mi. E Selden, 29 June 1971 (TSU 272, male).

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